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\$3.50

the WEIRD WORLD
of
**JACK
STAFF**
BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO



the WEIRD WORLD of **JACK STAFF** BRITAIN'S GREATEST HERO



WRITTEN & DRAWN BY
PAUL GRIST
☆ COLOURED BY ☆
BILL CRABTREE



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There I was in London, hanging round in Forbidden Planet, when I bumped into Rich Johnston, the well known comics gossip monger in the company of a young woman. Rich introduced me to his companion who was a burlesque dancer called Khandie Kisses (I know this sounds like I'm making this all up, but it's true - only Rich would try and impress a burlesque dancer by introducing her to the exotic world of comics!) who had appeared on the cover of Alan Moore's *Dodgem Logic 2*. Khandie started to tell me how she first met Alan Moore. She had no idea who he was, but she thought he was a nice bloke and he sent her funny texts - at which point Rich's tabloid instincts kicked in and he blurted out the headline "Alan Moore Sex Texts Burlesque Dancer!"

Rich looked a little disappointed when he realised his great story wasn't actually true.

FLAG WAVING

Thanks to all the various reviewers (including Mr. Johnston) for the nice things that have been written about the new look Jack Staff, but there is one thing that seems to crop up with increasing regularity when people are talking about Jack Staff and it really isn't true. So in an effort to set the record straight, I'd like to point out that Jack Staff was never a reworked proposal for a Union Jack series which had been rejected by Marvel Comics.

What happened was I was working my way through various Marvel characters, looking for an obscure character that I could revive and make my name and fortune with. I came back to Union Jack who had been reintroduced into modern day Marvel continuity by Roger Stern and John Byrne some 20 years earlier and then promptly forgotten, which fitted my criteria perfectly - a character with history but with pretty much a blank slate so I didn't have to worry about what other people had done with him. So I contacted a Marvel Editor and asked if he'd be interested in seeing a proposal for Union Jack. I never heard back from him (not about Union Jack), but having had my interest piqued I started to think about what you could do with a British Superhero, and, well this is it really. I never wrote a proposal for Marvel. They never turned it down. And Alan Moore never sex texted a burlesque dancer.

As far as I know.

It wasn't until just before the first issue of Jack Staff was published that I found out that Marvel had published a Union Jack mini series a year earlier, so really no matter how brilliant a proposal I'd written (if I had written a proposal that is) it would have been very unlikely to be used by Marvel.

If you went to the Bristol Comic Expo in May I hope you enjoyed it. I know I did. It seems that will be my only UK comic appearance this year as I'm likely to be running some comic workshops at a comic festival in Algeria at the same time as the Birmingham International Comic Show in October. Ah, the Jet Set world of the modern cartoonist...

Follow me on twitter @mistergrist or join the Weird World of Jack Staff facebook group for updates and exclusive preview pages!

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ENGLAND

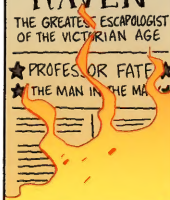


“THE EMPIRE”

**CHARLIE
RAVEN**

THE GREATEST ESCAPOLOGIST
OF THE VICTORIAN AGE

★ PROFESSOR FATE ★
★ THE MAN IN THE MASK ★











WHAT
IS
THIS?

THE
MAN, JOHN
SMITH,
HE HAS
GONE
...

AND
I?

I AM
STILL
ON THE
STAGE
...

BUT
THIS
IS NOT
THE
EMPIRE!



WHAT
TRICK
IS
THIS?

I
HEAR THE
SOUND OF
THUNDER
OUTSIDE
...

BUT
THE SKY
IS **BLUE**
...

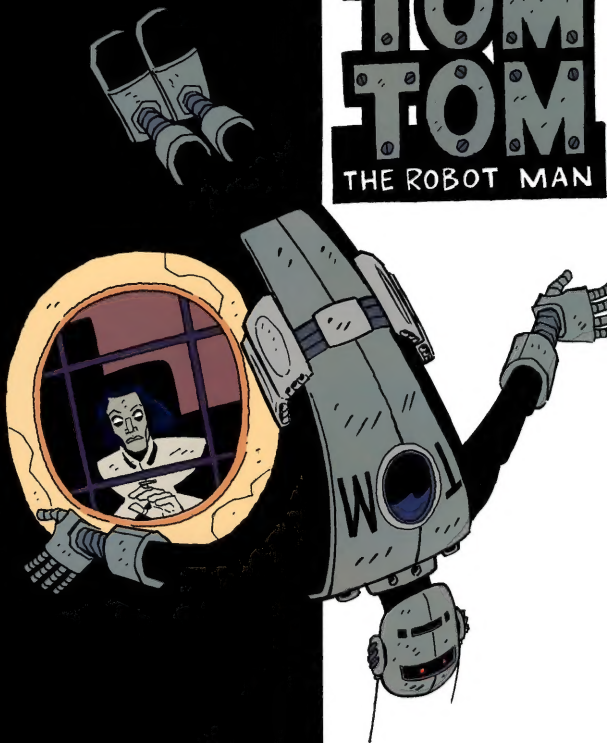
HOW
CAN
THIS
BE?



HE'S CASTLETOWN'S
CAST IRON CHAMPION!

TOM TOM

THE ROBOT MAN



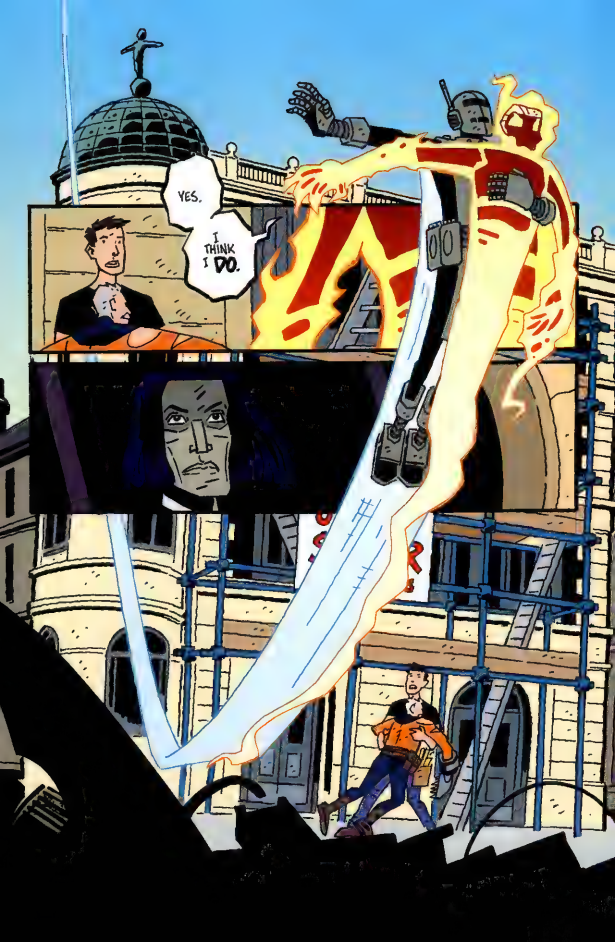


YOU
COULDN'T
STOP ME
THEN

THEY
CAN'T
STOP ME
NOW!

NO...
WAIT!

I
DON'T
THINK
YOU--



YES.

I THINK
I DO.

THIS IS
THE **FUTURE**
...BUT THIS
IS **NOT** A
VISION.

THIS
IS MORE
THAN
THAT.

THAT'S
IT. I'M
GONE.

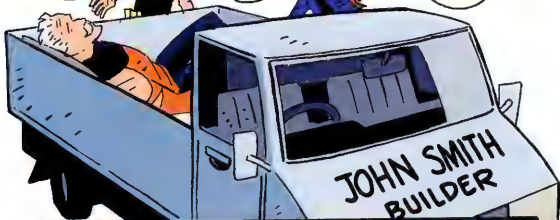
WHERE
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
GOING?

I'M
TAKING
THIS GUY
TO THE
HOSPITAL,
OKAY?

IN CASE
YOU HADN'T
NOTICED,
THIS IS A
DANGEROUS
PLACE TO
BE!

OH NO,
YOU
CAN'T
JUST
RUN
AWAY!

IN CASE
YOU HADN'T
NOTICED,
THIS IS **ALL**
ABOUT
YOU!



AS IF I
AM **PART**
OF IT.

HEY!





I AM
PROFESSOR
FATE.

TRISHA!

ARE
YOU
ALRIGHT?

I'M
FINE.
I'M
GOOD.

THAT'S THE
SKULL...
I RECOGNISE
HIM FROM
UNIT D
FILES.

TRISHA?

A
GIANT
ROBOT
FALLS FROM
THE
SKY...

AND
IT'S
CALLED
TRISHA?

FEEL FREE
TO JOIN IN
WHEN
YOU LIKE
MISTER
SMITH
...

YOU'RE
WASTING
YOUR
TIME
THERE.

HE'S NOT
PLAYING
**SUPER
HERO**
TODAY.

WH YEAH..
WELL YOU'D
BETTER
GET OUT
OF HERE.

I
DON'T
WANT TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.

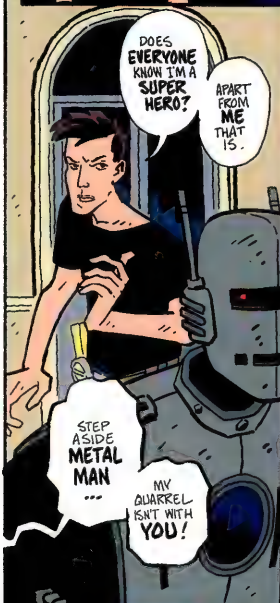
OKAY?



WE WILL
MEET AGAIN.
ANDREW
OWEN.



I HAVE
WAITED
A LONG
TIME.

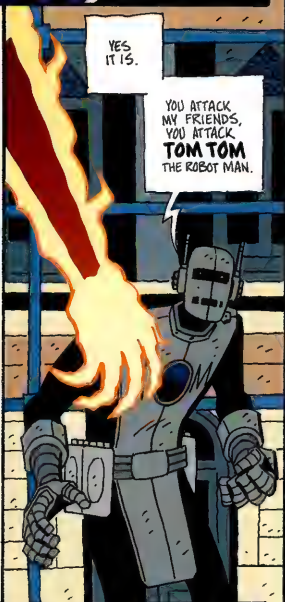


DOES
EVERYONE
KNOW I'M A
SUPER
HERO?

APART
FROM
ME
THAT
IS.

STEP
ASIDE
METAL
MAN
...

MY
QUARREL
ISN'T WITH
YOU!



YES
IT IS.

YOU ATTACK
MY FRIENDS,
YOU ATTACK
TOM TOM
THE ROBOT MAN.



WHAT?

WAIT!
HOW DID
YOU KNOW
MY NAME?



Ah-
NOBILITY
AND STUPIDITY
ALL IN ONE
SINGLE
SENTENCE.



OWEN &
SLATOR
BUILDERS



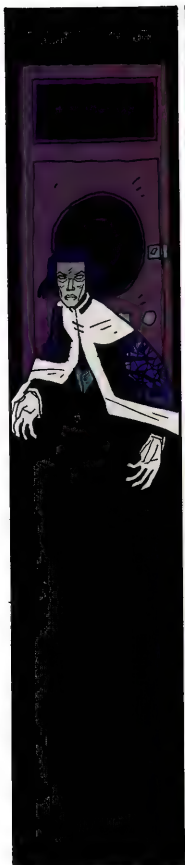


NOW...

I THINK
IT'S TIME
WE BROUGHT
THINGS TO
AN END.

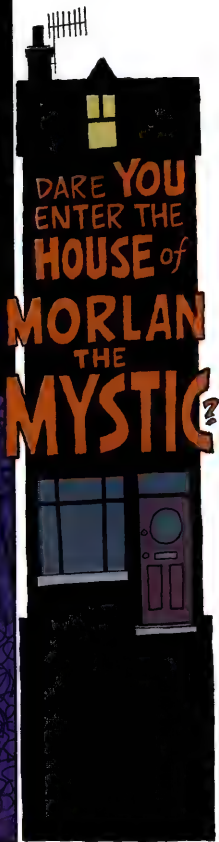
DON'T
YOU?

CONTINUED.



HEY!
ABOUT
TIME YOU
GOT HERE!

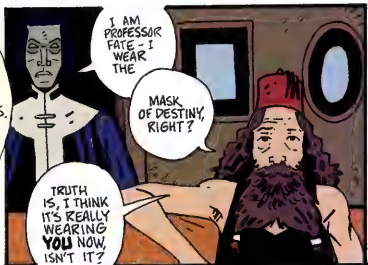
COME
ON IN THEN!
IT'S JUST
GETTING
TO THE
GOOD
BIT...



I'M
MORLAN.
THE MYSTIC.
YOU CAN
CALL ME
AL.

EVER
WANTED TO
BE ABLE TO
SEE INTO THE
FUTURE? OF
COURSE YOU HAVE.
EVERYONE DOES.
BUT, TRUST ME,
IT'S **NOT** WHAT
IT'S CRACKED
UP TO BE.

HOW
CAN YOU
ENJOY THE
FOOTBALL
MATCH WHEN
YOU KNOW
THE SCORE?



I AM
PROFESSOR
FATE - I
WEAR
THE

MASK
OF DESTINY,
RIGHT?

TRUTH
IS, I THINK
IT'S REALLY
WEARING
YOU NOW,
ISN'T IT?

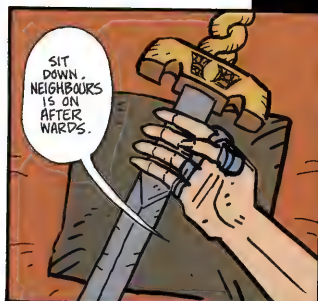
NO...
WHAT
MADNESS
IS THIS?



WE
CALL IT
TELEVISION
...

THE **END**
OF THE **WORLD**
- **LIVE** IN YOUR
OWN FRONT
ROOM!





SIT
DOWN.
NEIGHBOURS
IS ON
AFTER
WARDS.



THE
SWORD
... YOU
HAVE THE
SWORD!



OH
DON'T MIND
THAT OLD
THING.

I'M
EXPECTING
SOMEONE'LL
BE ROUND
TO COLLECT
IT ANYTIME
NOW.

AT
LAST!

I
HOLD THE
SWORD OF
DEVASTATION
IN MY
HAND--





AND NOW THE
POWER
IS **MINE!**



NO.

WHAT
YOU'VE
GOT THERE
IS A
SWORD.



THE
POWER?
THAT'S A
WHOLE
DIFFERENT
THING.



THERE!
IT'S HIM!
I'VE SEEN
HIM IN MY
VISION!

THE **DEVIL** WITH
AN ANGEL'S FACE...



HE
IS SO
CLOSE
...

AS
IF I COULD
TOUCH
HIM.



THIS
IS THE
**FINAL
BATTLE**
...

AND
IT IS
HAPPENING
NOW!

shhh!

DON'T
SPOIL THE
ENDING
NOW.

I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
YEARS TO
SEE HOW
THIS TURNS
OUT!



BUT IF
THIS IS
HAPPENING
NOW ...

WITHOUT
IT HE
CANNOT
DEFEAT
HIS FOE!

WHY
DOES HE
NOT HAVE
THE
SWORD?

NO.

BUT
HE'S GOING
TO TRY
ANYWAY.

THE
SWORD'S
NO USE
TO HIM
NOW.

BUT HE
IS THE
CHAMPION..
THE POWER
WAS HIS!

WAS.
BUT, Y'KNOW,
THINGS
HAPPEN.

SOME
ONE ELSE
HAS THE
POWER
NOW.

FACE IT
PROFESSOR-
THE FUTURE'S
NOT WHAT IT
WAS ANY
MORE.

NO!
IT CANNOT
BE! THIS
IS NOT HOW
IT HAPPENS
...

CONTINUED.



NO!

YOU DO
NOT
HOLD THE
SWORD!

I WAS
WRONG!

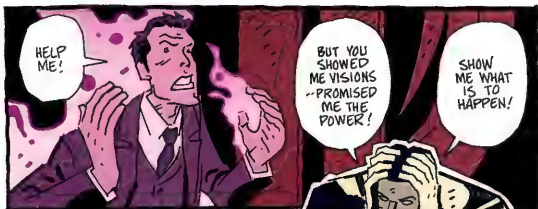
SO
WRONG!

EVERY
THING
HURTS
...

WHAT--
WHAT
HAVE
YOU
DONE?

SOME
ONE
ELSE
HAS THE
POWER!

SOME
ONE
ELSE IS
THE
CHAMPION
...





AND
THIS--
THIS IS
HOW IT
ENDS!



YES
...

I SEE
IT NOW.



I SEE
EVERY
THING.



AND
EVERY
THING
BURNS.





THE FIRE RAGED
ALL NIGHT. BY
MORNING ALL THAT
WAS LEFT OF THE ONCE
PROUD EMPIRE THEATRE
WAS SMOULDERING TIMBER.

NOTHING REMAINED TO
MARK THE EPIC STRUGGLE
THAT HAD BEEN PLAYED
OUT UPON ITS STAGE.
NOTHING COULD
SURVIVED SUCH DESTRUCTION.

EXCEPT ONE.
HE IS BROKEN.
HE IS BLOODED.
HE IS
ALIVE!



HE IS

CHARLIE RAVEN

THE **GREATEST ESCAPOLOGIST** OF THE VICTORIAN AGE!



NO DOOR IS LOCKED TO
HIM! NO CHAINS CAN
BIND HIM! NO TRAP
CAN HOLD HIM!

BUT AS FOR PROFESSOR
FATE AND THE MASK
OF DESTINY? THEY
WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN.



END

STAFF POST

P.O. BOX 104, HUNTERBURY, TA9 1ND, UK • paulgrist1940@hotmail.co.uk

Dear Paul,

today I bought the latest Jack Staff (no.2) on the day of release, as I always do. But I almost didn't notice it on the rack, because of the non-Grist cover. So imagine my surprise when I read your Flag Waving column, in which you write of 'grey muted colours and not a single...interesting image to be seen'. You wrote about the importance of covers to attract and excite. The Grist covers always do, because they are distinctly you. The Churchill cover could have been any cover, any time, any place in the last few years. So, were you being ironic, or optimistic, or passive-aggressive? I don't know.

On the bright side, if someone else doing covers helps to get the book out on a fairly regular basis, then good. Or if it helps to sell more copies, then good. That would be ironic, though, wouldn't it, to think that the dwindling comic buying public would sooner buy a Grist comic with a non-Grist cover as a come-on?

Meanwhile, all the best to you,

Simon Heath
simon cw heath@ntlworld.com

I think I owe Ian an apology by making my comments about covers in an issue that he drew the cover for, which then makes his cover a target for 'Well this cover is like that' kind of comments, which was not my intention. I think it was a good dramatic image, though by necessity, fairly 'generic' in the sense that it wasn't relating to the events of the story inside. What I'm not so keen on is when every cover is just a shot of the hero in some kind of vague non specific kind of way. I think it works well as a change of pace. And for this issue, I hope everyone enjoyed the muted purple colours!

Dear Mr. Grist,

Let me say I enjoy Jack Staff thoroughly, despite going through temporary bouts of Not Buying It. I'm on board for Weird World, for your information. It's a fun read and your artwork ranks right alongside Mignola, Gabriel Ba and a short list of others that never fail to capture my interest. I'm also as drawn to the goofiness of the characters as I am the primary-ness of the colors.

That said, your editorial's argument in the second issue's inside flap ran counter to the cover itself, which I thought was among the dullest of JS covers I've seen yet. Your covers are great - you don't need covers done by others and Mr Churchill's piece seemed to evoke the very dull grayness you then went on to rail against. I like Churchill's art well enough (not a big fan of that style), but think guest artists should be in a style similar to your own such as Jaime Hernandez, Darwyn Cooke, Mike Allred, etc.

Anyway, I'm sorry I didn't enjoy it. I do like Jack Staff a lot. I enjoy the disjointed ADHD storytelling and your art is among the most kinetic out there.

Rob Snyder

ps I'm a cartoonist myself, although I don't make a living at it. My work (and it's pretty good) can be seen at dobbscomics.com. Hope you enjoy it.

One of the things I want to do by having other people do covers for Jack Staff is get a different take on the character, something different which is not something I would (or even could) do. Ian's cover was different to one I'd do, but then I'd hate for someone to think they had to draw the character 'my' way, so you'd have Ian Churchill trying to draw like Paul Grist, in which case I might as well do it myself! Having said that, Ian did do the cover a couple of years ago (yes it has been waiting to be used that long) and he is now using a more cartoony style in his recent work, and in his forthcoming Marinemans comic.

Thanks, Paul, for creating such a great comic! Very fun, very exciting, very funny (in spots), and simply very very good. It was great to see Unit D in action, and to have a flashback to the '70's. I loved the Professor Fate and Charlie Raven upstairs/downstairs pattern. And we are all left with lots of curious questions for the next issue. Such as who is that masked or

helmeted time-traveler? And what's with the doppelgangers or memory-lostness?

And, most troubling of all... wouldn't a woman like Lynda Jones usually have a lot more going on than one dinner date in the whole month of March? Hmmm, that really is VERY suspicious!

To tell you the truth, I was a little worried about enjoying the issue as much after seeing your preview pages on Facebook. The issues go by so quickly and the wait between issues can be so slowwww... but the preview didn't ruin it at all! There were still many unexpected pleasures, such as Becky Burdock's interview of The Skull, and her sarcasm when the police showed up.

As promised, you seemed to show a possible origin for Jack Staff without explaining it much. I agreed with your editorial about covers, and to tell you the truth, I didn't like Ian Churchill's cover all that much. The background color was hazy and muted, just like all those other covers you didn't like in your store visit - and Jack Staff was too muscle-bound and grim-looking for my tastes. The upcoming covers look much better.

And as for the time-traveling woman in the helmet - it probably isn't Becky or Helen Morgan, who was found dead while in her usual clothes during a previous peek into this future. Tricia? Liz? Flaming Glory? Lynda? Becky's mom? Lots of possibilities.

Thanks again! This story, and this series, is getting better and better.

Steve Replogle
(via Image/Jack Staff message board)

That wasn't Lynda's calendar, that was John Smith's. He doesn't get out much.

Dear Mr. Grist,

It was some time in the early nineties at a comic book convention in London that I first discovered Kane and actually met you. I think Kane was perhaps five, maybe eight issues old, and I bought every single one that you had on your table in your corridor. It blew me away for several reasons. Firstly the sheer beauty of the writing and art. Secondly, it really made me think that the idea of making ones own comic books could actually be a reality.

I was never much of an artist, but that brief meeting with you (during which you were an absolute gentleman) and those books always made me think I could do something with the ideas that floated around in my head.

Well, cut to the here and now, and I have just published my first comic book - a four issue mini-series called Omnitarium.

Don't worry, I am not writing with the expectation of you remembering an encounter, but to say thank you for doing what you do, and to let you know that it was a big influence on me.

I have since moved from London to LA, and my long boxes are long sold, but I traded in the single issues for the TPB's, and continue to count Kane as one of my all time favourite books.

Thank you again,

Jamie Gambell

PS - really loved Eternal Warrior!

PPS - Jack Staff too!

ORIGINAL ART FOR SALE

Single pages of the original black and white art from Jack Staff are available at £75UK/\$150US each. Covers are £150UK/\$300US each. Prices include postage. Pages are also available from The Eternal Conflicts of the Cosmic Warrior, Torchwood and Doctor Who. Please list alternatives in case your first choice has already gone. Contact me by e-mail if you want to check availability or reserve a particular page. Cheques payable to Paul Grist.

NEXT ISSUE

It's the End of Everything or at least it will be if John Smith survives long enough to see it!

HELP!
HELP!

I CAN
HEAR
YOU
ANDREW
OWEN.

THERE'S
SOMETHING
ON MY
LEGS...

IT'S
ALRIGHT.
I CAN
HELP
YOU.

cough
cough

I'VE
BEEN
WAITING
FOR
YOU.

I
CAN'T
MOVE
...

I CAN
GIVE YOU
THE STRENGTH
TO GET
OUT OF
HERE.

CAN
ANYONE
HEAR
ME?

cough



YOUR
VOICE
...

I KNOW
YOU - YOU'RE
THAT GUY
IN THE
CLOAK...

YES.
THAT
WAS ME
ANDREW
OWEN.

THE
THEATRE
...

cough

IT FELL
DOWN
ON TOP
OF ME
...

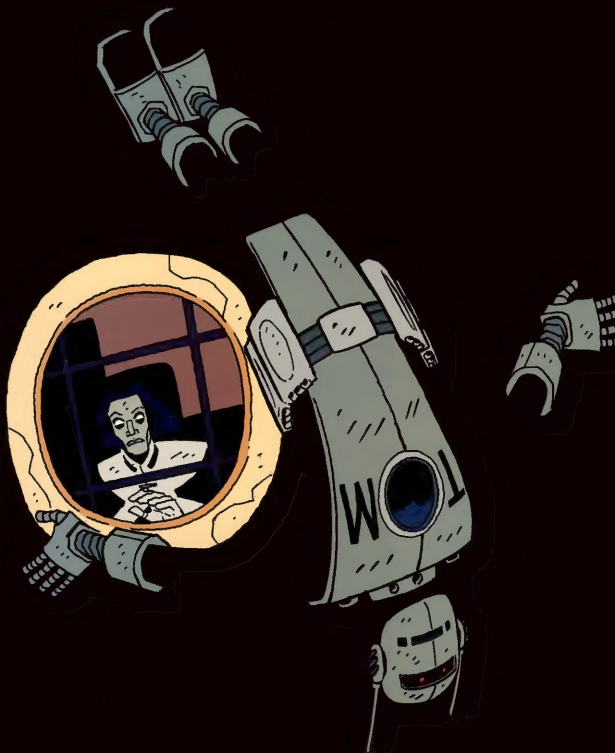
I'M
LUCKY
YOU FOUND
ME...

LUCK?
THIS WAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH
LUCK.

THIS
WAS
DESTINY.



IMAGECOMICS.COM



Minutemen - Ty'd Emma



minutemen



Scans' n edits